Casualty Procedures

…from a CACO Perspective

First Sergeant's Course

Quantico, VA

28 June 2001

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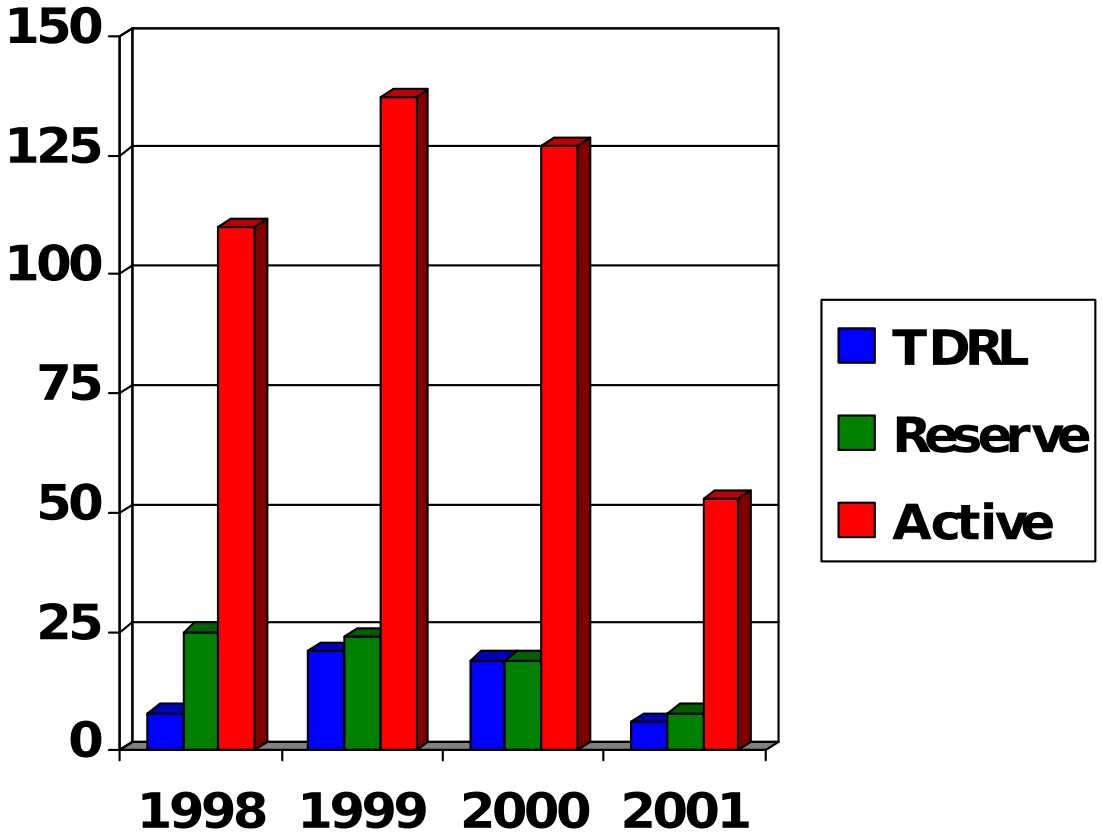
Casualty Statistics

- **1998**
  - Active 110
  - Reserve 25
- TDRL 8
- **1999**
  - Active 137
  - Reserve 24
  - TDRL 21
- **2000**
  - Active 127
  - Reserve 19
  - TDRL 19
- **2001**
  - Active 53
  - Reserve 8
  - TDRL 6



Casualty Section

Mission Statement

Under the staff cognizance of the Deputy Director for Programs, Personal and Family Readiness Division, implement, execute and manage the Casualty Assistance Program for the U.S. Marine Corps, which includes providing assistance to Marine Corps families with compassion, dignity and honor.

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Topics of Discussion

- Casualty Definitions
- Notification Procedures
- Benefits
- CACO Report
- Funeral Support
- **Problem Areas/Improvements**

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Casualty

- Any Marine lost to the organization having been declared dead, DUSTWUN, missing, ill or injured.

Occurs any time…any place!

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Casualty Status

- Term used to classify a casualty:
  - Seriously Ill or Injured (SI)
  - Very Seriously Ill or Injured (VSI)
  - Special Patient (SPECPAT)
  - Not Seriously Injured (NSI) (mass only)
  - Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN)
  - Missing
  - Deceased

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Personnel Casualty Report (PCR)

- **Primary source of information** used in notifying the NOK
  - Administrative rather than operational
  - Sent to MRC from the reporting unit
  - Contains accurate/verified information
  - Fax advance copy to MRC
  - Supplemental report if necessary

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Next of Kin (NOK)

- Person most closely related to the casualty.
  - Directs disposition of remains and personal effects
  - Approves release of information to third parties
    - Primary NOK (PNOK)
    - Secondary NOK (SNOK)
- Both parties will be personally notified

NOK Order of Precedence

- Per Title 10 USC
  - Surviving spouse
  - Children (natural, adopted, step)
    - Minors cannot make disposition of remains
  - Parents in order of seniority
    - Unless granted sole custody
  - Brothers/Sisters in order of seniority
  - Grandparents
  - Other relatives in order of relationship

Beneficiary

- Individual designated to receive death benefits

- **Does not make this individual the PNOK!!!!!!!!**

Escort

- Individual assigned to accompany the remains from place of demise to place of burial
  - Special escort may be requested by NOK
  - One escort funded by CMC
  - Parent command may fund additional individual
    - Serves as command representative

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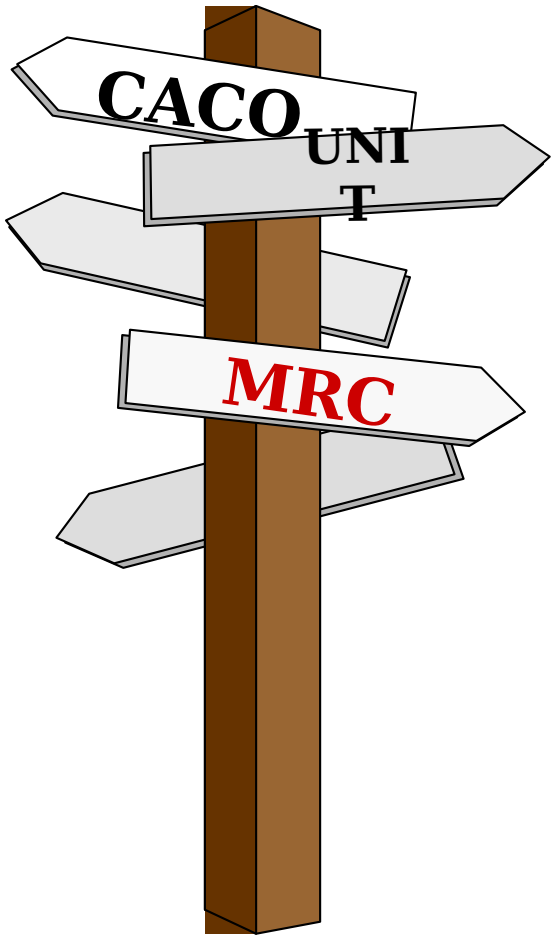
Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO)

- Individual responsible for representing the Commandant and the Marine Corps with the NOK.
- Acts as advisor
  - Serves as liaison with other agencies (VA, SSA)
  - Assists with funeral arrangements
  - Assists with completion/submission of claim forms

Notification Procedures



- A casualty occurs!
  - Parent Unit Actions
  - MRC Actions
  - CACO Actions
- 12 Hours...

Parent Unit Actions

- Call MRC IMMEDIATELY
- PCR prepared by first USMC activity learning of casualty (parent command)
- Fax PCR to MRC and release

- Speed becomes essential in communicating information to NOK

MRC Actions

- Obtain signed RED, SGLI, DD Form 1966/1 or NAVMC 763 from SRB/OQR
- Locate and task closest unit to NOK to provide notification and assistance
  - Bases and Stations
  - I&I Staffs
  - Geographically separated units
  - Recruiting activities

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CACO Selection

- Unit tasked by MRC
  - Any unit having sufficient assets to provide notification and assistance
- Unit selects and assigns CACO
  - SNCO, Warrant or Commissioned Officer
  - Equal or higher rank than deceased
  - Possesses ability to represent the Marine Corps with the local community

MRC Actions

- Make telephonic contact with CACO
  - Provide immediate guidance/instructions
  - Email CACO Book 2001
- Provide copy of PCR to CACO
- Open case file
- Prepare Casualty Package for CACO

CACO Actions

- Contact MRC prior to departure for specific guidance
- Make liaison with the Marine's parent command
- Review and use CACO Checklist and CACO Book 2001
- Prepare calling card for the NOK

Notification

- 0500 - 2400 (unless directed)
- Uniform - Service “Alpha” or Dress Blue
- Always take another Marine along
  - serves as witness and assistant
  - Chaplain, if available
- Utilize the local police or post office for assistance in locating the NOK

Notification

- Confirm to whom you are speaking
- Get inside before delivering news
- Be sensitive and use good judgment
- Don’t hurry, speak naturally as possible
- Pass only known facts
  - Do not speculate, embellish or pass opinions

Notification

- Don’t extend overly sympathetic gestures that may be taken the wrong way
- Verify name, address, telephone number and SSN (death gratuity payee)
- Explain that subsequent visits will be required
- If NOK is alone, stay until family or friends arrive

Notification

- If requested to leave, depart!
- Provide calling card
- Call and pass notification time to MRC and parent command
  - Pass verified information to MRC
    - Name, address, telephone, SSN

Notification

- There is no standard casualty call
- Families behave and react differently
- Reputation of the Marine Corps is at stake
  - good judgment is “a must”
  - lasting reputation with the NOK and the community

- Call MRC for guidance

Casualty Assistance Call Package (CACPac)

- FedEx to CACO within 24-48 hours:
- Contains:
  - Information booklet for CACO
  - Information booklet for the NOK
  - Honorable Service Certificate/Lapel Pin
  - Information/condolence letter from MRC
  - Pamphlets from various support agencies

Benefits

- Claim Agent or Attorneys need not Apply!

Benefits

- Death Gratuity (paid by law within 48 hrs)
  - $6,000 ($3,000 exempt from tax)
  - Paid to the PNOK
    - Married vs. Single
    - Spouse, Child(ren), as designated, by law
- Arrears of Pay (AP) (as designated)
- SGLI – $250K (as designated)
  - Prudential Alliance Account
  - Tax free, interest from date of

SGLI Family Coverage

- Effective 1 November 2001
- Automatic coverage
  - Coverage must be declined in writing
  - Spouse $100K
  - Each child – 10K
- Premiums have not been determined
- MARADMIN is forthcoming
- Transportation of Remains (MMSO)

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Benefits

- Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services
- Burial Allowances
  - Mortuary Affairs (MMSO) Great Lakes, IL
  - Funeral and/or Interment Expenses ($4,750 -$6,075) plus transportation cost
    - Primary - $1,750 (prepare and encase)
    - Secondary – (burial) $4,325 (pc) $3,000 (nc)
  - Headstone or Marker (VA)

Benefits

Joint Federal Travel Regulations

- Invitational Travel Orders (ITO)
  - Travel to Bedside
    - Serious or worse condition
    - Doctor's Statement
      - Two family members
      - Transportation only….no per diem!
  - Travel to Burial
    - Spouse and children (if none, parents)
    - 2 days per diem

Benefits

- Transportation of Family Members (PCS)
- Household Goods/Personal Effects
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- ID Card
- Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP)
  - TDRL/Retirement eligible
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) – paid by VA

Benefits

- Social Security Benefits
- Income Taxes
- Montgomery GI Bill Refund
  - Educational Opportunities
- Benefits paid to minors are governed by state law

Benefits vary from case-to-case

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Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL)

- Death imminent situations (72 hours)
- Contact military medical treatment center
  - PEB convened
  - Member or representative consents to board
- MMSR-4 issues separation authority
- Parent command separates Marine

Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL)

- Pros
  - Additional benefits for survivors
    - SBP
    - SGLI extended for 1 year vice 120 days
    - Retired pay computed at 75 vice 50 percent
    - DoVA Disability Compensation
  - Allows for return to active duty
- Cons
  - No BAH – Death Gratuity payment delayed
  - No burial benefits – unless retired/retained and dies within 120

TDRL vs. Active Duty

	Active Duty	TDRL
Death Gratuity	$6K	$6K
SGLI	$250K	$250K
Funeral Expenses	$6,075	$6,075
DIC	$1,369	$1,369
Arrears of Pay	???	???
Additional Insurance	None	$10K
Retirement Pay $1,000	None	$550 (55 percent)
SBP	None	$441 or $1,000

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* $1K x 12 = $12K per year x 16 years = $192K

CACO Report

- Due 30 days after receipt of CACPac

Documents assistance

Assists in addressing problem areas

Recommendations for improvements

Included in the Marine's OMPF

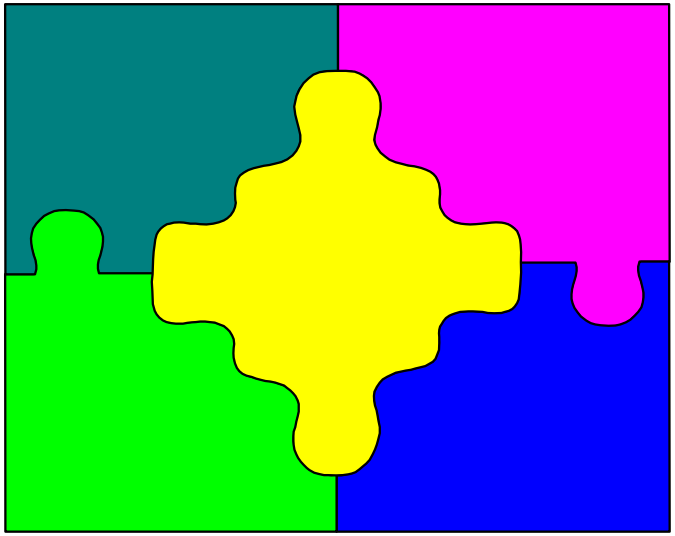
Funeral Honors

JUST DO IT –
IT'S THE LAW

CHARLES F. MURPHY
LT. COL., INFANTRY
UNITED STATES ARMY
FEB. 27, 1914 — MARCH 20, 1968
BELOVED WIFE
MARGARET E. MURPHY
1ST LT., U.S. ARMY NURSE CORPS
OCT. 30, 1920 — JAN. 30, 1982

The Last to Let You Down

Problem Areas/Improvements



- Getting it all together

Problem Areas

- Use of “SUICIDE”
  - Apparent/possible self-inflicted
  - Gunshot wound to the head - determination pending
  - Asphyxia due to hanging - determination pending
- Incorrect RED information
- CACO’s not reading reference material

Improving the Process

- CACO Book 2001(Internet Edition)
  - forms via internet
  - more detailed and continually updated
  - KISS theory
- MCO P3040.4E (final review)
- Removed MCD's as casualty coordinators
- Removing MCD's as funeral coordinators

Taking Care of Our Own
Marine Casualty

Name This City

MRC